

REMARKS

The paragraphs starting at page 1, line 23, page 2, line 18, page 2, line 26, page 5, line 23, and page 6, line 23 in the specification have been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested. Claims 1-2, 4-19, 24-30, 32-47, and 52-78 are pending, with claims 1, 28, 29, 61, 71, and 75 being independent. Claims 61-78 have been added.

Interview Summary

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Hailu for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives during the personal interview conducted on November 5, 2002. The foregoing amendments and the following remarks reflect the substance of the interview, including the proposed amendment to claim 1 discussed during the interview which the Examiner agreed would overcome the references cited.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Carpenter/Johnson et al Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 4-19, 24-30, 32-47 and 52-60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carpenter (WO 97/34388) in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 5,600,776). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 4-19, 24-27, 56, and 58 depend from claim 1. Claim 59 depends from claim 28. Claims 30, 32-47, 52-55, 57, and 60 depend from claim 29. For that reason, the following remarks are directed primarily to features recited by claims 1, 28, and 29.

Independent claim 1 is directed to regulating user interface controls and recites "accessing a maturity level for the user in a database based on the user identity; [and] automatically associating a grouping with the user identity by selecting a grouping from among a

plurality of groupings based on the maturity level for the user." Independent claims 28 and 29 recite similar features.

Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and the claims depending from claim 1 because claim 1, as amended, reflects the substance of the interview (interview summary attached), in which the examiner stated that the combination of the references would be overcome by the proposed amendment.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, claim 1 is allowable over Carpenter and Johnson, as are claims 2, 4-19, 24-27, 56, and 58, each of which depends from claim 1.

Similarly to claim 1, claim 28 recites "accessing a maturity level for the user in a database based on the user identity; [and] automatically associating a grouping with a user identity by selecting a grouping from a plurality of groupings based on the maturity level for the user." Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, claim 28 is allowable over Carpenter and Johnson, as is claim 59, which depends from claim 28.

Similarly to claim 1, claim 29 recites instructions for causing a computer to "access a maturity level for the user in a database based on the user identity; [and] automatically associate a grouping with the user identity by selecting a grouping from among a plurality of groupings based on the maturity level for the user." Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, claim 29 is allowable over Carpenter and Johnson, as are claims 30, 32-47, 52-55, 57 and 60, each of which depends from claim 29.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.


Applicant : Jack WASSOM et al.
Serial No. : 09/224,211
Filed : December 30, 1998
Page : 10

Attorney's Docket No. 06975-033001 / Personalization
02

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Enclosed is a \$576.00 check for excess claim fees and a \$400.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 23 has been amended as follows:

A control can be responsive to user input (i.e.[**i.e.**], enabled) or unresponsive (i.e., disabled). A control can be displayed differently if disabled. For example, because the user has not selected any document text 106, the button 102f corresponding to a "cut" function is displayed in a muted gray-scale, indicating that the "cut" function is presently unavailable. As shown, although displayed differently, a disabled control (e.g., 120f) nevertheless occupies its normal amount of space on the GUI screen 100.

Paragraph beginning at page 2, line 18 has been amended as follows:

Embodiments may include one or more of the following features. [**featuers.**]

Paragraph beginning at page 2, line 26 has been amended as follows:

Identifying a grouping may include receiving user information and based on the received information, determining the grouping. Such user information can be received via a network connection. The information may include a user identifier. [**identifer.**] The user identifier may be associated with a grouping by storing the associated grouping in a database. The grouping can be selected from a list or by identifying user characteristics such as a user's age.

Paragraph beginning at page 5, line 23 has been amended as follows:

Referring to FIGS. 5A-5D, a toolbar 118 produced for a user identified as having an "18+" grouping includes controls different from a toolbar 124 produced for a user identified as belonging to a "kids" group. As shown, both toolbars 118, 124 share a number of common controls such as controls for handling e-mail 118a-118c, 124a-124c. Additionally, both toolbars 118, 124 share general characteristics. For example, buttons 118a, 118b, 118k-118m and pull-down menus 118c, 118e-118j both include pictures (e.g.[**e.g.**], a printer) and text (e.g.[**e.g.**],

"Print") describing the function(s) accessible with a control. A user can reduce the amount of screen space a toolbar 118, 124 occupies by configuring the toolbar 118, 124 to only display the text description (not shown).

Paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23 has been amended as follows:

Referring to FIG. 6, in one implementation, a host 144 uses a table 154 ~~[146]~~ to store the grouping assigned to a user identifier (ID). It should be understood that the host 144 may not be a single computer, but a collection of networked computers. A client, such as client 140a, executing client software 141 (e.g., America Online 4.0) initializes a network session by sending a message including a user identifier 142 to the host 144. The message may also include other information such as the client 140a platform (e.g., a PC or Macintosh computer). Software instructions 146 executing on the host 144 use the table 154 to determine the grouping corresponding to the received user ID 142 (150) and identify an associated set of toolbar controls based on the determined access level (152). The host 144 can transmit the toolbar information to the client 140a, which will use the information to display a toolbar having the designated set of toolbar controls.

In the claims:

Claims 1-2, 6, 18-19, 27-29, 34, 46-47, 55, and 58-60 have been amended as follows:

1. A method of regulating user interface controls, the method comprising:

receiving a user **[identifier]** identity for a user;

accessing **[user information]** a maturity level for the user in a database based on the user **[identifier]** identity;

automatically associating a grouping with the user **[identifier]** identity by selecting a grouping from among a plurality of groupings based on the **[user information]** maturity level for the user; and

automatically providing a set of user interface controls corresponding to the identified grouping, the set of user interface controls including a toolbar.

2. The method of claim 1 in which automatically providing the set of user interface controls comprises displaying the set as a bank of controls.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein automatically providing the set of user interface controls comprises changing an existing collection of user interface controls.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein associating the grouping comprises determining the grouping based on the received user **[identifier]** identity.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a user **[identifier]** identity comprises receiving the user **[identifier]** identity via a network connection..

27. The method of claim 1, wherein automatically providing the set of user interface controls comprises receiving information from a remote site describing the set.

28. A method of producing a toolbar having user interface controls, the method comprising:
receiving a user identity for a user over a network connection;

accessing a maturity level for the user in a database based on the user identity;

automatically associating a grouping with a user **[identifier]** identity by selecting a grouping from a plurality of groupings based on the maturity level for the user [, the groupings corresponding to different maturity levels];

[receiving a user identifier over a network connection;]

determining the groupings associated with the received user **[identifier]** identity; and
using the determined grouping to automatically produce a toolbar having user interface controls, the user interface controls included in the toolbar being based on the **[grouping associated with the user identifier]** maturity level for the user.

29. A computer program, residing on a computer-readable medium, comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

receive a user **[identifier]** identity for a user;

access **[user information]** a maturity level for the user in a database based on the user **[identifier]** identity;

automatically associate a grouping with the user **[identifier]** identity by selecting a grouping from among a plurality of groupings based on the **[user information]** maturity level for the user; and

automatically provide a set of user interface controls corresponding to the identified grouping, the set of user interface controls including a toolbar.

34. The computer program of claim 29, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to automatically provide the set of user interface controls comprise instructions for causing a computer to change an existing collection of user interface controls.

46. The computer program of claim 29, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to automatically associate the grouping comprise instructions for causing the computer to automatically determine the grouping based on the received user **[identifier]** identity.

47. The computer program of claim 29, wherein the instructions for causing a computer to receive a user **[identifier]** identity comprise instructions for causing a computer to receive the user **[identifier]** identity via a network connection.

55. The computer program of claim 29, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to automatically provide the set of user interface controls comprise instructions that cause the computer to transmit information to a remote site describing the set of controls.

58. The method of claim 1, wherein automatically associating a grouping with the user **[identifier]** identity comprises automatically associating a grouping with a user **[identifier]** identity as defined by a master user.

Applicant : Jack WASSOM et al.
Serial No. : 09/224,211
Filed : December 30, 1998
Page : 15

Attorney's Docket No. 06975-033001 / Personalization
02

59. The method of claim 28, wherein automatically associating a grouping with a user **[identifier]** identity comprises automatically associating a grouping with a user **[identifier]** identity as defined by a master user.

60. The method of claim 29, wherein instructions for causing a computer to automatically associate a grouping with the user **[identifier]** identity comprises the associating of a grouping with a user **[identifier]** identity as defined by a master user.